

Application No. 09/869,364  
Filed: August 27, 2001  
TC Art Unit: 1713  
Confirmation No.: 3984

REMARKS

The pending claims have been rejected as anticipated by either Xue et al. or Karger et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. As indicated in the specification, the universal electro-pneumatic distributor of the invention has the capability of providing pressure and electric current simultaneously (p. 2, line 10) or sequentially (p. 2, line 32) where needed. The device must have the capability of doing both, although, clearly, in an individual use, the pressure and electric current would be applied either simultaneously or sequentially. Claim 1 has been amended to make that requirement even more clear. As this capability is not shown in either Xue or Karger, the Applicants submit that these references cannot anticipate the claims in the application and that the rejection is overcome.

The Applicants submit that all claims in the application are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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